

The Tribune.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1862.

WHAT CHANGE NOW!
Since 1861, when the present constitution was adopted, the career of Illinois, under the generally wise and benevolent provisions of that instrument, has been one of unexampled prosperity. The organization of the State has been unexampled rapidly. Wealth has been multiplied as it by magic. The happiness and safety of the people have been carefully cared for. Justice has been wisely administered. The public debt has been greatly reduced. The credit of the State is now the best in the world. New branches of industry have sprung up and new avenues of commerce have been opened. Within her boundaries the whole surface of Illinois has been checkerboarded with railroads, carrying the means of civilization and the appliances of wealth to every man's door. Education has flourished vigorously. Progress in the right direction has been rapid and steady; and to-day Illinois stands in the front rank of States—the fourth in the Union; and, although the country is still in its infancy, is the most populous for her size.

No one supposed when the question of the convention was agitated, nor yet, when the convention met and commenced its labors, that the whole of the fundamental law would be changed—that the constitution that had brought such benefits in its train would be wholly thrown aside. The necessity for a partial reorganization of the supreme court, and the addition of more judges to the bar, for the removal of the two millions of dollars for additional or two more millions, was recognized. It was popularly supposed that the members, elected by the affiliation of parties and the withdrawal of the Republicans from the political field, would get together, amend what needed amendment, and go home, leaving the old structure, under which so much has been accomplished, to be the people's refuge and shelter still. A new constitution was not thought of. But the power of control, which was given by a majority of no-party people, that were made only to be violated, could not be so easily laid down. Hardly a vestige of the old constitution remains. A new instrument has been framed; and it is not enough to say that it is intrinsically perfect. It is worse. It contains matters of high import to every man and woman in the State which are yet experimental, and will probably be disproved in their working; but which, in some cases, will be of great moment upon what we now enjoy. It provides for greatly increased expense in the administration of the State Government. It creates a host of new officers to caput at the expense of the people, and to whom nothing but the payment of current expenses will be left. It is a new instrument, and, as far as we can see, it will be of little value to the people.

By the 23d section of article 4 of the new constitution, suits may be brought against the State in the circuit court of Sangamon county upon the bonds of this State, and the like theron, hereafter issued, or hereafter to be issued, by or under the authority of the State.

The so-called McAllister and Stebbins bonds are an old claim. Some time during the year 1857 or 1858, they were sent to New York to collect a loan for them.

Not being able to borrow money on satisfactory terms, they hypothesized a sum of dollars for bonds of \$250,000; that is, they left a number of bonds to secure the payment of that amount and interest. It is the understanding that the State would redeem the pledged bonds within a specified time.

What the money became for, the State officers do not know, and neither do the holders of the bonds and bondholders transferred and assigned them to other parties, who have, time after time, presented them for payment. At most every meeting of the legislative assembly have been made to the State, demands for payment of these bonds; but the parties have never succeeded. The legislature appropriated and tendered to the bondholders the \$250,000 with interest, which they absolutely refused to accept. They are now in the hands of the bondholders; and, claims that they are innocent (purchasers), and any those which the State may have against these bonds should not be interposed as an obstacle to the payment of these bonds.

The legislature, however, has not succeeded in getting the payment of these bonds, but the parties have never succeeded. The legislature appropriated and tendered to the bondholders the \$250,000 with interest, which they absolutely refused to accept. They are now in the hands of the bondholders; and, claims that they are innocent (purchasers), and any those which the State may have against these bonds should not be interposed as an obstacle to the payment of these bonds.

At the time the new constitution was adopted, it will be observed in court against the State, that the State will be liable to pay the interest alone, and that the principal amount will be impossible for the State to pay.

As the time approaches for the payment of the interest alone, the State will be compelled to pay the interest, and, if the State does not have the money, it will be necessary to borrow it, and, if it cannot be borrowed, it will be necessary to sell the bonds.

Men of Illinois! Do you want such a change at this time—above all, at this time? Have not we prospered under the old regime? Where, in all God's earth, is there a political community that has achieved so much? Where is the need of this radical revolution? What great weight presses upon the body politic, that we should cast off the old moorings in a safe harbor, and, on the dark day, leave the scenes of which we are now keeping?

Is this a time for experiments in a State where all is prosperous? Have we nothing to lose? Is there no danger that the experiments and mutations to which the adoption of this new-fangled and untried scheme will give rise, that the State may fall into civil strife, and become the scene of civil strife, involving all in a common ruin?

We appeal to you to answer at the polls.

THE RESTORATION:

After the conquest of the rebellious districts must come the more tardy work of restoration of order and prosperity under the Union, to the communities where treason has cast its dark shadow. To that end, troops march the roads closed against those cities and the more difficult and delicate process of rehabilitation begins.

At the first aspect the prospect is but encouraging. Trade has dried up in its channels for lack of material, and of currency. The first duty of the Federal generals becomes the humane one of feeding the poor, while the rich scowm from behind their doors, and, as openly as the dogs, abhor their hated of the Northern invaders.

But there is a channel through which the heart of the rebellion will be peacefully reached and its last resources drained—Commerce.

The danger to the rebel cause has all along stood in the eager zeal with which the rebel leaders have urged the people of the South to burn up their staples and cease from their production. The rebels were so anxious that there would be a suspension in the possession of high piled cotton bales and sugar beards which the Southern planter would not dare when exposed to the old time fire of gold or Federal notes. It has been the prominent policy of the rebel leaders to deliver the South from the peril involved in the control of the holder of staples, and, perhaps, when they had got it, to generously part with it.

But still more plainly is the danger to the rebel cause seen in "The Circular to the Southern Slaveholders," which has been widely published by the Southern press. It makes this remarkable admission: "It is evident to us that we are now more numerous."

Revolts will be, and it has already begun. One of the chief causes of the war is the excessive supply of the market.

There is a general demand for the transfer of slaves from the South to the West, and the trade in slaves will again

fruits. The local crew of rebel adventurers will diminish rapidly once the South they have ruled with a rod of iron comes to be released from their yoke, a despotism the most cruel and oppressive the world has ever known.

Commerce restored will bring unity to the State, and the general welfare, prosperity of that instrument, has been one of the greatest. Wealth has been multiplied as it by magic. The happiness and safety of the people have been carefully cared for. Justice has been wisely administered. The public debt has been greatly reduced. The credit of the State is now the best in the world. New branches of industry have sprung up and new avenues of commerce have been opened. Within her boundaries the whole surface of Illinois has been checkerboarded with railroads, carrying the means of civilization and the appliances of wealth to every man's door. Education has flourished vigorously. Progress in the right direction has been rapid and steady; and to-day Illinois stands in the front rank of States—the fourth in the Union; and, although the country is still in its infancy, is the most populous for her size.

No one supposed when the question of the convention was agitated, nor yet, when the convention met and commenced its labors, that the whole of the fundamental law would be changed—that the constitution that had brought such benefits in its train would be wholly thrown aside.

The necessities of the case required the adoption of a new constitution. The judge has done his duty. He tells us Democratic friends plainly his reasons why he will not support the entomology. The Judge will speak this Saturday afternoon and evening at Princeton.

How does it look to see the special advocate of "Liberty" countering with "Truth" in the rear? How does it look to see a leading Democrat, however for "Secession," laboring hard for the adoption of an instrument that will double the taxes of the State?

How does it look to see the "friend of the people" employing his multifarious art to procure the adoption of a constitution that the poor man of a trial by jury and authorities any justice of the peace to throw him into jail for a libel on the State? How does it look to see a leading Democrat, however for "Secession," laboring hard for the adoption of an instrument that will double the taxes of the State?

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